

From: Daniel O Winkless
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/3/01 12:03pm
Subject: The Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

I am really disappointed. I had been hoping that Microsoft would be broken into three or more independent companies. I would have settled for a two-way split. But a slap on the wrist and a warning not to do it again is simply not sufficient.

I use Microsoft products daily. I am daily angered by the poor quality of the products I am using. As you can tell from my email address, I work for the US Geological Survey. The Survey and the Department of Interior have made significant investments in PC based programs. Our computer staffing has increased as we have made larger investments in PCs. This, while total staff has decreased. It is the wrong direction and it is caused by bad software. Fortunately, we have been able to keep our mission critical applications in the Unix environment. Our Unix support staff has decreased to where we have only one Unix support person. Again, not a good situation should he get sick or find another job.

If Microsoft's Office product were implemented on a stable platform, like Solaris or Linux, it would truly be awesome. If the Microsoft Operating systems had to compete fairly with other OSs, it would either improve rapidly or die rapidly, just as a free, open, and competitive market would dictate.

As it is, Microsoft will promise to be good and will continue its monopolistic practices because it can. The next suit will be harder to bring and Microsoft will be harder to break up. If you won't break up the company, at least recognize that it is a monopoly and regulate it as such, the way AT&T used to be a regulated monopoly.

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